

Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Yellowtuft

Alyssum Corsican, *A. murale*

Other common names:

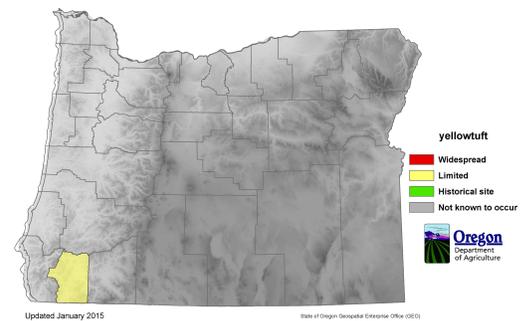
USDA symbol: ALMU, ALCO

ODA rating: A and T



Distribution in Oregon: *Alyssum* species was first planted in southwestern Oregon in the 1990s for phyto-mining. Since then it has escaped from original planted fields and threatened to invade the serpentine-rich soils of the Illinois Valley.

Introduction: Introduced to the U.S. from Eastern Europe. *Alyssum murale* is a widespread species found on serpentine soils throughout central and southern Europe. *A. corsicum* has a more restricted range, occurring only in Turkey and Corsica, with the Corsican population theorized to have been transported from Turkey by humans. Breeding agricultural cultivars of these two species has been a priority for development of *Alyssum* species for phytomining. Promoted as an environmentally conscious method for cleaning up contaminated mining sites, phytoremediation consists of planting Hyperaccumulator (plants with the ability to extract metals from the soil and concentrate them in stems, shoots and leaves) on mine wastes. Once plants are mature, they are harvested and burned. The metallic ash is processed to produce usable metals, and the concentrations of toxic elements in the contaminated soils eventually decrease.



Description: *Alyssum* is fast growing perennials, reaching reproductive maturity within one or two years, and are fairly long-lived. *A. murale*'s leaves are gray-green oval or spatula-shaped leaves are 0.5-1.0 cm long and are covered with tiny hairs. *A. corsicum* is very similar, although the leaves of this species are more oval in shape and have a dense covering of silvery hairs, giving them a pale gray or white appearance. Plants of both species produce hundreds of small, bright yellow flowers on branched umbels in early summer. Because most leaves are shed prior to the initiation of flowering, the two species look almost identical when in flower. Both species produce the papery, circular to oval flattened fruits, each with a single flattened seed.

Impacts: The Illinois Valley contains the greatest concentration of serpentine soils in Oregon, and supports a diverse and unique flora. Fifteen plant taxa with conservation status (listed as rare, threatened or endangered by Oregon Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center) occur in this area, including two species federally listed as endangered. Yellowtuft threatens to overtake the Illinois Valley's unique native plant communities.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. This weed is being managed for eradication.

